

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

A party numbering eleven took part in the ramble along the First Watchung Mountain near Bound Brook, New Jersey, on the afternoon of Saturday 21 May. The trip began near the point known as Chimney Rock, where the leader gave a short account of the origin of the basalt ridges which form the Watchung Mountains. A rich upland vegetation was found on the slopes of a valley, while the cliffs afforded good studies of rock xerophytes, chief among which were: *Saxifraga virginiensis*, *Aquilegia*, *Arabis lyrata*, *Phlox subulata*, *Heuchera americana*, together with four kinds of ferns. But the spot which made the greatest appeal to the party was a meadow aglow with *Phlox pilosa*, *Erigeron pulchellus* and *Castilleja coccinea*. One of the members found a clump of *Triosteum aurantiacum*, and another member located a specimen of *Orobanche uniflora*. Access to this area showing such variety of upland plants was made possible through the courtesy of the Bound Brook Water Co.

M. A. CHRYSLER

FIELD TRIP OF JUNE 11 TO GREAT SWAMPS, MADISON, N.J.

One of those rare June days brought a group of fifteen to Morristown for the start of a most interesting day. Perhaps it was the temperature which prevented really serious botanizing in the Great Swamp. The ground was so dried from lack of rain that many of the rarer bog plants seemed just too hard to locate. For the writer the most exciting find was an Alder Flycatcher's unmistakable "Bee wick" note, Mr. Chubb settling for the first time his otherwise impossible identity in her mind. After a short walk the cool shade of a log lean-to welcomed us back to the woods. Lunch was eaten.

Further botanizing occupied the early afternoon in the beautiful wild flower and fern garden of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Marsh at Madison. There are gathered between forty-five and fifty species of fern, their separate tastes in soil, moisture and sunlight most successfully supplied, judging by the satisfied air with which they were growing. With so many of the rarer northern ferns represented, how can I correctly name all those most worthy of mention? Two Bladder Ferns, two Woodwardias,

three Osmundas, three Botrichyums, five Woodsias, eight Aspleniums, eleven Dryopteris. The Adders Tongue, Climbing and Walking Ferns, Maidenhair, Massachusetts Fern, Hart's Tongue, Rock-brake and Cliff-brake were all notable.

Driving on to the magnificent estate of Mrs. William Jenks, we received a thrilling surprise. A swarm of bees had alighted the previous evening on a piece of a farm wagon not far from the hives, and had been successfully detained by the man in charge to await our coming. Inspired by Mrs. Jenks' example, our fears were soon forgotten as we crowded around for closer views of the closely-packed, humming mass, as it hung about two feet from the ground. It wasn't long before most of the group joined the two men assisting Mrs. Jenks in a search for the elusive queen. Handfuls of bees were gently brushed off, examined, and dropped onto a sheet, from which most entered the new hive. Then the frames were removed and scutinized until, after more than an hour, the long, slim, dark, active lady was finally found. Her wings quickly clipped, with no further danger of her escape, we left her and her faithful following to make their new home. For a new sensation, let us recommend the gentle whirl and hum of a handful of bees— two or three hundred on one's palm!

The party was ready to relax in enjoyment of the bountiful tea with salad and sandwiches served to us on the terrance overlooking the swimming pool where the rhododendron blossoms brightened the hillside background. Inspection of the gardens and green houses followed, but time was too short to do them justice. With memories of a most gracious hostess, we regretfully departed.

HELEN E. SAUNDERS